

NASA News

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NASA Visitor Center Earth Day Events Saturday, April 24, 2004 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Scheduled Programs:

10 a.m. Marsh Walk

Learn why the salt marsh is much more than a smelly, mucky and buggy place. You will need appropriate "mucking" footwear for this visit into the marsh. Guide provided by Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

11a.m. "Feathers"

A local Master bird bander will discuss identification, feather function, bill shape, and field marks of some of the bird species found on Assateague Island.

12 p.m. Native Flower Planting

Native flowers are beneficial to the environment. They increase biodiversity, as well as attract songbirds and butterflies. Help increase biodiversity at the NASA Visitor Center by planting your very own native flower.

12:30 p.m. Reading of Dr. Seuss's "The Lorax"

"I am the Lorax. I speak for the trees.
I've come here to celebrate Earth Day, so please
Come join me and help spread the message I bring."

1 p.m. "Life on Earth" Bingo

Discover NASA's involvement in helping us understand and protect our home planet through a fun and interactive game of bingo.

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2 p.m. "The Power of Plankton"

They have the power to feed whales, light up the ocean and help you breathe! Be a plankton detective and discover how plankton powers the planet. Design your own plankton, spy on these worldwide wanderers you're swimming with and share your plankton wisdom with other plankton pupils. Presented by the National Park Service.

3 p.m. "Secret Worlds: The Universe Within"

This film begins 10 million light years from Earth and moves through space in powers of ten into the microscopic world.

3:30 p.m. "Sun-Earth Connections"

Celebrate the spring equinox by learning all about our sun and how it affects us on Earth. Following the presentation, children will make their very own functional sundial and UV detector.

Ongoing Activities:

Wetland Scavenger Hunt

Take a walk along the visitor center's salt marsh with a field study scavenger sheet to discover the beauty of the wetland. Draw pictures or describe with words the things you see, feel, hear and smell.

Visitor Center Trash Pickup

Receive a reward for helping us increase the environmental integrity of the Visitor Center's grounds. We'll provide the bag, you provide the trash.

"Schoolhouse Rocks"

Mars scientists are asking kids from around the world to help them understand the red planet. Bring a rock from your hometown and we will send it to Mars scientists. In the mail, you will receive a report on what kind of rock it is, an official certificate, and a Mars sticker for your contribution.

***It's really important that visitors bring a rock from the ground in its natural setting. Avoid rocks that are decorative or used in landscaping. Rock must be a minimum of 2" and a maximum 6" (preferred 4" size) and clean - wash with water if dirty.

All events and activities for Earth Day at the NASA Visitor Center are free. The Visitor Center is located on Rt. 175 about six miles from Rt. 13 and five miles from Chincoteague. For more information on Visitor Center events, please call (757) 824-2298.

For information about the Visitor Center on the Internet, visit

<http://www.wff.nasa.gov/vc>